

CURT DEMAND

CHINA CALLS ON THE POWERS TO ORDER THE ENVOYS HOME.

Refuses to Be Responsible for Casualties That May Follow Declaration of Escort from Peking.

MESSAGE RECEIVED AT PARIS

FRENCH FOREIGN OFFICE MAKES A PUNING REJOINDER.

Will Hold China Strictly Accountable for Events, and Demands Free Ingress to the Capital.

MORE LEGATION CASUALTIES

REPORTED BY THE ITALIAN MINISTER UNDER DATE OF AUG. 5.

Late French Advice from Peking Contains News Calculated to Cause Great Disquiet in Europe.

NOTE FROM SIR ROBERT HART

HE CALLS ON ENGLAND FOR SPEEDY WORK OF RELIEF.

Sheng, at Shanghai, Becoming Uneasy—Peking Is Obstructed—Allies Are Said to Be Resting.

PARIS, Aug. 12, 10:30 p. m.—The Tsung Li Yamen forwarded through the Chinese minister in Paris, Yu Keng, a message to the French government complaining of the "hardness of the foreign ministers in Peking in replying to the offer of the Chinese government to conduct them under escort." The message proceeded to say that the Tsung Li Yamen declined to be responsible for any casualties which might follow these delays and insisted that the European governments order their representatives to leave Peking.

To this communication, M. Delcasse, minister of foreign affairs, sent the following reply: "No order to depart from Peking will be given to our ministers so long as the routes are unsafe. If a casualty occurs the responsibility will be entirely with the Chinese government. Its strict duty is to protect foreign ministers even more than its own."

"If it be true that the Chinese government has great difficulty in defending them and in defending itself against rebels, it should order its troops to stand aside before the allied forces. This would render free the road from Tien-Tsin to the capital and would accomplish the work of protection which is encumbered."

"The Chinese government should understand that the only means of proving the sincerity of its designs and of limiting its responsibilities is a cessation in the placing of obstacles in the way of such an arrangement."

According to dispatches received to-day from Vice Admiral Courmelles, of the French naval command, native Christians and missionaries on the line to Hankow, 500 kilometers from Peking, are in great danger, the point being entirely outside the sphere of the allied operations. He has also received bad news regarding New-Chwang, captured Aug. 4, which, as he is advised, has since been evacuated.

According to his advice from the French colony in Peking, eight marines, one cadet and one customs employee have been killed. He says a Danish company has laid a cable from Che-Foo to Taku.

The Patrie publishes the following: "The procurer general of the congregation of the Lazarist missions, Mgr. Bettembourg, informs us that he has just been advised by M. Delcasse that, according to a dispatch from the French consul general at Shanghai, received yesterday, seven thousand Christians have been massacred at Pao-Ting-Fu, east of Peking. No other details are at hand."

If such startling news has been received by the Foreign Office it has been kept secret, as the usual news channels have not been made acquainted with anything of the kind.

French Story of the Siege.

PARIS, Aug. 12.—The French Foreign Office received this morning from M. Pinchon, French minister at Peking, what is evidently a delayed dispatch which he referred to in the first message received from him, published here last Thursday, as "a cable No. 1, dated Aug. 2." It is as follows: "From June 30 to July 17 Chinese troops besieged, fired upon and bombarded us. Four legations have been burned, and that of France three-quarters destroyed. We still hold out, thanks to the heroic defense of the Franco-Austrian detachment. Our loss is sixteen. The general loss is sixty more and 119 wounded."

"All the missions in Peking have been burned, save the Pao-Ting mission, which is standing, but the condition is uncertain. Despite anguish and privations, the personnel of the legations are in good health."

"The bombardment ceased July 17. Offensive works, Chinese barricades, and, intermittently, shots continue, without victims."

"The government is attempting indirectly to negotiate with our departure, but we cannot leave without some protection other than that of the government of China."

"Our forces, ammunition and provisions are almost exhausted. The interrupted attacks may recommence and place us at the mercy of the Chinese government."

"On July 19 I received a telegram which I was not allowed to reply to in cipher."

HART DEMANDS ACTION.

Calls on Downing Street for Speedy Relief—Sheng Is Disquieted.

LONDON, Aug. 12, 3:30 p. m.—"The sooner we can get out of this —, the better, for it is inconvenient for the Chinese government and unsafe for ourselves."

This is the message received last evening from Sir Robert Hart, dated Peking, Aug. 6, and sent in cipher to the Chinese minister.

FIEND'S CRIME

CHARLES R. H. FERRELL SHOT HIS FRIEND IN THE BACK.

Confession Made of the Robbery and Murder While Lane Was Doing the Criminal Act of Kindness.

THE MEN HAD BEEN FRIENDS

LANE GAVE HIM A RIDE, THINKING HIM PENNILESS.

Ferrell Boarded the Train at Urbana, with the Details of His Plan Carefully Mapped Out.

NEEDED THE MONEY TO MARRY

TOOK IT TO HIS SWEETHEART, AFTER DISPOSING OF WRAPPERS.

Was Arrested at Her Home and Confessed His Crime—Was an Ex-Employee of the Adams Company.

COLUMBUS, O., Aug. 12.—Charles R. H. Ferrell, former employee of the Adams Express Company, was arrested this afternoon in this city and has confessed to the killing of Messenger Charles Lane and the robbery of the way safe of the Adams Express Company on the Pennsylvania east-bound train which arrived in this city at midnight Friday. One thousand dollars of the money which he had stolen were recovered.

Ferrell was to have been married Thursday next to Miss Lillian Costlow, the beautiful young daughter of Patrick Costlow, an engineer on the Pennsylvania lines. He had been discharged from the employ of the Adams Express Company about three months ago, and had not been able to secure employment. He confessed that the motive of the robbery was to secure money, of which he felt in great need on account of his approaching marriage. The money secured he had given to Miss Costlow to keep for him, saying it was money he had saved from his earnings. He was at the home of his affianced and in her company when placed under arrest.

Ferrell is but twenty-two years of age and has a splendid physique, being six feet in height. He has dark hair and an attractive face, and was finely dressed. When the officers took him into custody he assumed a nonchalant demeanor, but when he found that he could no longer deceive the officers he made a full confession. After his statement had been taken by Chief of Police Tyler and he was led to a cell in the police station he was in a state of nervous collapse, and orders were given that he was to be watched closely to keep him from doing himself bodily injury.

The confession of Ferrell disclosed a sad and bloody murder and robbery crime that seemed almost impossible of belief to those who looked on the man, of gentlemanly and refined appearance, who had been told the story of the murder and the robbery. He said he had become desperate because of his inability to secure employment and a realization of the fact that he must have money to defray the expenses of his approaching marriage.

WOULD KILL HIS FRIEND.

The robbery had been carefully planned and it included the murder of Express Messenger Lane. He knew Lane well, in fact, they were friends, and he relied on Lane's confidence to help him execute the crime. He knew that considerable money was always carried by the messenger on Pennsylvania train No. 8, between St. Louis and Columbus, and that he was certain to secure a large sum if he robbed the safe on that train. Having provided himself with a Smith and Wesson six-shooter thirty-eight caliber, he went to Urbana, Friday morning, and waited for No. 8. When the train arrived there Ferrell went on at once to the express car and told Lane that he was out of money and asked permission to ride to Columbus with him. Lane consented, never for a moment suspecting the treachery of his pretended friend. For a short time after the train left Urbana they chatted pleasantly. Lane sat in a chair in the end of the car with his back slightly turned.

When Ferrell had finally nerved himself for the crime he drew his revolver and stepped behind Lane unobserved, and fired three shots in rapid succession into the chest of the man, who rolled off the chair on the floor and lay face down. Ferrell quickly fired the remaining shots at the prostrate body. Lane was unconscious, but Ferrell, fearing that the wounds already inflicted would not cause death, took Lane's revolver and fired two more bullets from it into the body. Ferrell then took the key to the way safe from the pocket of the dead messenger, and opened the safe and laid Lane's revolver inside, where he could reach it easily in case he was detected and needed it to defend himself.

After he had taken out all the sacks containing the money packages, money orders and waybills he placed them in a small satchel and waited until the car arrived at Plain City, when he slipped off the train. He walked about for a few minutes to regain his composure and then inquired for the hotel, which he found after a short time. A belated citizen directing him to the place. He secured a room and retired for the night without registering, a fact of which he was half asleep and did not appear to be inquisitive. On Friday morning, Ferrell proceeded to go through the packages and take out all the cash. The remainder he tied up in a bundle. The question of how to get rid of the debris of his plunder and his revolver then confronted him. It was an easy matter to dispose of the latter. Lifting up the mattress of the bed, he placed the revolver in a secure place in the springs. It was not so easy to dispose of the bundle of money orders and envelopes. After thinking the matter over carefully, however, he concluded he could get rid of the bundle best by expressing it to a fictitious address in some distant city, knowing that it would remain there for a year at least before it was opened if it was not intercepted.

EXPRESSED THE WRAPPERS.

When Ferrell arose early the next morning he sauntered down to the railroad sta-

tion and sat there for a time, reading a small book. Then he expressed the packages, which he addressed to C. W. Taylor, Lockport, N. Y., bought a ticket and took the train for Columbus at 6:30. When he arrived in the city he went at once to his boarding place, on the north side of the city, and changed his clothes. Ferrell said he was much disturbed by the talk about the murder and robbery, which he heard upon leaving his room. During the day he paid a number of bills that he owed out of the money which he had stolen and bought some clothes and other things which he needed. Saturday night, he went to see the young lady to whom he was engaged to be married, and arranged to call again Sunday afternoon.

It was at Plain City, late Saturday afternoon, that City Detectives O'Neill and Dundon obtained the clue that led to Ferrell's apprehension. They had been at the hotel at daylight, while Ferrell was sleeping in an upper room, and asked the proprietor if any strangers had registered or had been seen about the hotel. The proprietor said that he did not remember having seen any strangers. Later in the afternoon the detectives again asked the proprietor if he had any strangers about, and he remembered that a man who had for some time registered had stayed at the house over night and had gone away on the early morning train to Columbus. The detectives at once searched the room, and were rewarded by finding Lane's revolver where he had secreted it. They also found several way bills that had been overlooked by Ferrell in his hurry and excitement while making up the express packages. The hotel keeper was able to give only an imperfect description of the strange guest, because, as he said, he was too sleepy at the time to take any particular notice of him. The detectives were dumfounded and not a little distressed when they found the murderer and robber had slipped through their hands so easily, and the luckless hotel keeper was given a sharp lecture. After learning of the express package they telephoned to Columbus and had it intercepted. The package was opened and the stolen sacks were found.

Chief of Detectives Kelley and Detectives O'Neill and Dundon then set to work to run down the mysterious stranger who, they had become convinced, was an ex-employee of the Adams Express Company. Suspicion soon rested on Ferrell, and information secured in regard to his movements during the last few days was considered sufficient to warrant his arrest.

AT HIS SWEETHEART'S HOME.

The detectives first went to his boarding place and were informed that he was probably at the home of his sweetheart, Miss Costlow, No. 20 Twenty-first street, on the East Side. They at once went to the Costlow home, where they found Ferrell. It was a trying duty for the detectives when they were ushered into the room where the girl lived. Ferrell appeared annoyed at the intrusion. The detectives did not broach the subject of the train robbery, but told him that he was suspected of a burglary and that they wished him to accompany them to the police station, where the chief of police wanted to interview him. Thinking that perhaps the detectives were on the wrong scent, Ferrell moved himself and said with apparent composure, "I guess there must be some mistake."

He excused himself to the young lady, and accompanied the detectives to the city prison. On the way to the station the detectives told Ferrell what he was wanted for and what they knew, and he reluctantly admitted that he had committed the crime. At the police station a written confession was taken by the chief of police. Ferrell tried to keep his nerve, but it was evident that he had been under a severe strain, and that he could not stand the ordeal much longer. He did not tell a connected story. Most of the facts were brought out by questions, which he seemed to answer reluctantly. Several times he broke down, and when he was finally led to a cell he was in a state of collapse. He then seemed to fully realize for the first time the awful nature of his crime and the fact that he will, in all probability, atone for it with his own life.

As soon as it was learned that Ferrell had given the money to his sweetheart, Inspector Barron went to the house and secured it. The young lady was utterly prostrated by the disclosures. She had not suspected Ferrell of wrong-doing for an instant, and the news was a terrible shock to her and her parents, who had regarded Ferrell as a model young man. The young lady had never doubted his story that the train robbery was his last resort, and he had been carried and saved by him as he stated.

WAS NOT A GOOD MESSENGER.

Ferrell's home is in Steubenville, O. His father is said to be a bridge carpenter and a highly respected citizen of that place. Ferrell worked for the Adams Express Company at Steubenville, coming to Columbus a year and four months ago, when he was given a run as messenger between Columbus and Pittsburgh. He was discharged about three months ago, after three complaints had been made against him on account of broken packages. Ferrell was not able to give a very satisfactory explanation in any instance, and after the last complaint he was dismissed from the service. The express company does not charge Ferrell with crookedness in any of these cases, but says that he did not give satisfactory service. It is believed that all the cash taken by Ferrell, except about \$150 which he had kept in his pocket, was recovered. The amount in the hands of the police is \$1,600.31. A bundle of money orders which Ferrell says he threw into a vault have been recovered.

It has been determined by Ferrell's confession that the murder and robbery were committed in Union county, and that he was to be tried there. He says he was to be tried there. He says he was to be tried there. He says he was to be tried there.

To-night Ferrell has recovered his composure, after eating a hearty supper and smoking a fine cigar.

The Confession in Detail.

COLUMBUS, O., Aug. 12.—The following is a copy of Ferrell's confession to Chief of Police Tyler:

"My name is Charles R. H. Ferrell. My parents live in Steubenville. I formerly worked for the Adams Express Company, but was discharged two months ago. I was to be married to Miss Lillian Costlow next Thursday and I needed money. This was what caused me to do as I have done. I looked for work and did not find it and the thought of being idle and without money made me reckless. On Friday I thought I might get some money in the way I did get it, and I immediately began to lay my plans."

"I went to Urbana Friday afternoon, about 1 o'clock, with the messenger on No. 32, and left the train at Urbana."

(CONTINUED ON FIFTH PAGE.)

STARVING MEN

THEY MAKE UP RUNDLE'S COLUMN IN THE TRANSVAAL.

Correspondent of the London Daily News Deals the British Commissary Some Very Hard Blows.

RUNDLE'S STUPENDOUS TASK

HE HAS A HUNDRED MILES OF FRONTIER TO GUARD.

Incompetents in the War Office Held Responsible for the Condition of His Men on the Line.

ARE TOO HUNGRY TO MARCH

TOO WEAK TO SHOULDER THEIR RIFLES OR STAND IN LINE.

Pitiful Rations Issued, with Plenty of Food Available—The Implacable Wrath of Transvaal Women.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

LONDON, Aug. 12.—Mr. A. G. Hales, representative in South Africa of the Daily News, is the latest war correspondent to attack the methods and the raw tape of the British War Office. He says:

"Let me tell you how our army in Africa is treated by the incompetent people in the good city of London. I pledge my word as a newspaper journalist that every written word is true. I will add nothing, nor detract from, nor set down aught in malice. If my statements are proven false, then let me be scourged with the tongue and pen of scorn from every decent Briton's home and hearth forever after, for he who lies about his country at such an hour as this is of all traitors the vilest. I will deal now particularly with the men who are acting under the command of Lieutenant General Sir Leslie Hornet. This good soldier and courteous gentleman has to hold a frontage line from Windburg, via Senekal, almost to the borders of Basutoland. His whole front, extending nearly a hundred miles, is constantly threatened by an active, dashing, determined enemy, an enemy who knows the country far better than an English fox hunting square knows the ground he hunts over season after season. To hold this vast line intact, General Hornet has to march from point to point as his scouts warn him of the movements of the tireless foe."

"General Rundle's task is a colossal one, and any sane man would think that gigantic efforts would be made to keep him amply supplied with food for his soldiers. But such is not the case. The men are absolutely starving. Many of the infantrymen are so weak that they can hardly stagger along under the weight of their soldierly equipment. They are worn to shadows, and move with weary, listless footsteps on the march. People high up in authority may deny this, but he who denies it susses the truth."

A PITIFUL RATION.

"This is what the soldiers get to eat, what they have been getting to eat for a long time past, and what they are likely to get for a long time to come, unless England rouses herself and takes to the bone in regard to the people who are responsible for it:

"One pound of raw flour, which the soldiers have to cook after a hard day's march, is served out to each man every alternate day. The following day he eats one pound of biscuits. In this country there is no fuel, excepting a little ox dung dried by the sun. If a soldier is lucky enough to pick up a little he can go to the wood-piles, which there is plenty, mix his cake without yeast or baking powder, and make some sort of a wretched mouthful. He gets one pound of raw fresh meat daily, which nine times out of ten, he cannot cook, and there his supplies end."

"What has become of the rations of rum, of sugar, of tea, of groceries generally? Ask at the snug little railway sidings where the goods are stacked—and forgotten. Ask in the big stores in Cape Town and other seaport towns. Ask in your own country, where countless thousands of pounds' worth of foodstuffs lie rotting in the warehouses, bound up and tied down with red tape bandages. Ask—yes, ask; but don't stop at asking—damn somebody high up in power. Don't let some wretched underling be made the scapegoat of this criminal state of affairs, for the untold suffering which rests upon you, upon every man whose home, privilege and prosperity is being safeguarded by these famishing men."

"The folk in authority will probably tell you that General Rundle and his splendid fellows are so isolated that food cannot be obtained for them. I say that this is false, for recently I, in company with another correspondent, left General Rundle's camp without an escort. We made our way in the saddle, taking our two cape carts with us to Windburg railroad station, leaving our horse flesh there, we took train for East London. Then back to the junction and down to Cape Town, where we remained for forty-eight hours, and then made our way back to Windburg and from Windburg we came without escort to rejoin General Rundle at Hammonia."

COMMUNICATION EASY.

"If two war correspondents could traverse that country and get through with winter supplies for themselves, why cannot the transport people manage to do the same? These transport people affect to look with contempt on a war correspondent and his opinions on things military; but if we could not manage transport business better than they do, most of us would willingly stand up and allow ourselves to be shot."

"The work in front of us is a task of blood and muscle, brought about by con-

tinual hunger. These men fit to storm a kopje? Are they fit to tramp the whole night through to make a forced march to turn a position and then fight like their fathers fought next day?

"I tell you, no. And yours be the shame if the empire's flag be lowered—not theirs, but yours—for you—what do you do? You stand in your musk hats and shout a chorus of song full of sentiment of pride for your soldiers; full of his praise for his patience, his pluck and his devotion to duty; and you let him go hungry—so hungry that I have often seen him quarrel with a nigger for a handful of raw meal on the march."

FLEEING BEFORE KITCHENER.

Lord Roberts Reports on the Boer Situation—Trouble at Mafeking.

LONDON, Aug. 12.—The War Office today received the following message from Lord Roberts, dated at Pretoria, Aug. 11:

"The enemy is fleeing in front of Kitchener's and Methuen's forces. Early this morning he was trying to cross the railway at Wolversden station, where he was engaged by Smith-Dorrien."

"Methuen, on Aug. 9, fought a rear-guard action near Buffelsbosch. He captured six wagons and two ambulances."

"In spite of the fact that General Christian De Wet is in full flight, South African telegrams announce a hurried exodus of civilians from Mafeking and that Lord Edward Cecil is preparing to stand another siege."

Mr. James G. Stowe, United States consul general at Cape Town, has left Johannesburg for that city. He received an enthusiastic send-off."

WRATH OF THE WOMEN.

It Is Very Bitter in the Transvaal—Work of Reconstruction.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

LONDON, Aug. 12.—While events in South Africa no longer move with their former rapidity, and the closing scenes of the war may lack the theatrical effect which characterized their opening, the correspondents still find much of interest to chronicle in the constantly changing scene. The spectacle is much like that of the early "reconstruction days" in the United States. The writer of the latter '90's, when the tales of personal valor had given way to those of heroic devotion to a waning cause.

"The men are still sullen, the women are still drizzle and sour," writes John Stuart, of the Morning Post, describing the Transvaal women about Krugersdorp. "As I have often before remarked, these women hate us with a hatred as cruel as the grave."

"Send me a wounded Englishman," wrote a young woman of the place to her lover, Lady Smith, 'for I want to watch him die.'

"That was a common request found in letters from all over the country, mostly dated from Krugersdorp. And now Tommy Atkins pervades Krugersdorp and addresses the young women who had such kind hopes for him in language which Mary Jane, of Chelsea, would think facetious. He means neither unkindness nor incivility. Only these poor women are not in a frame of mind to understand his large, friendly heart."

"I am afraid that Mary Jane of Chelsea would be a little annoyed if she could see his simple overtures of peace. They are very frank, but here they are very futile. But I am going to tell you a story which shows that there is something akin to nobility in this passionate hatred of the women. On Monday night, long after the town had surrendered, a Transvaal flag was floated over one house occupied by Mr. Phanc Kock, who is a brother of the general who was wounded to the death at Glanslagte. A trooper saw the flag and hauled it down. Next morning Mrs. Kock, in impudent feminine obstinacy, had another hoisted. An officer ordered its removal. She called him into her sitting room and railed at him at considerable length."

"Ah," she cried, "you can take away our flags, and you can take away our independence, but you cannot take away our spirit. The trooper said he was taking the Transvaal flag and played the Transvaal 'Volkslied,' singing the words in a voice that shook with rage."

"Pretty true," said the officer; "what is it? Play it again, please." But she only shook her fist in his face. She was speechless. Poor wild woman! If she had been English or American she would have found a Whittier to put the pathos of the scene into jingling verse for the school books."

"The builders of the new South Africa have a hard and difficult job to work on, and nothing can be gained by hiding or ignoring the fact. Already an ex-com-mandant is foretelling a fresh outbreak of rebellion within two years. And many men who have given up arms promise us another round in the race war at the first European complication."

"Wait," they say, "till we see England with her hands full, and you will find the whole country aflame." For this reason I, plead for examples. We should not be satisfied, if we are too often satisfied in our carrying way with the surrender of an old-fashioned rifle and twenty or even fifty rounds of ammunition. There were enough Mausers in the Transvaal at the beginning of the war to supply every Boer in South Africa twice over. Our returns will soon prove that we have not received anything like half the number originally distributed."

Reinforcements for Mafeking.

LONDON, Aug. 12.—It has been decided, according to a dispatch to the Times from Ottobush, dated Saturday, to concentrate General Sir Frederick Carrington's force at Mafeking.

JUMPED THE TRACK.

Coal Train Wrecked and Two Men Killed—Two Others Injured.

WHEELING, W. Va., Aug. 12.—To-night at 7 o'clock a Deep Run, four miles above this city, on the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad, a south-bound coal train jumped the track over a steep embankment. Two men were killed and two others badly injured. Engineer Mike McGreevey, of Norwalk, O., jumped, alighting on his head, fracturing the skull. He died three hours later. An unknown man boarded the train at Warrenton, and was killed. Fireman G. E. Turner, of Steubenville, jumped and received two bad cuts on the neck and shoulder. His condition is serious. Israel Wolf, of Steubenville, front brakeman, jumped and received internal injuries.

Laborers Wanted in Cuba.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Aug. 12.—Governor General Wood is expected here on Wednesday next. The preliminary work on the Cuban Central Railway has begun and the contractors are advertising for several thousand laborers.

WANTS PEACE

EMPEROR KWANG SU HAS ISSUED EDICT AT PEKING.

He Asks for a Cessation of Hostilities While the Questions at Issue Are Being Discussed.

EARL LI GIVEN FULL POWERS

TO NEGOTIATE TERMS OF SETTLEMENT WITH THE POWERS.

This Is Regarded as Showing China's Realization of the Danger Which at Present Menaces.

PROPOSALS CURTLY REJECTED

WASHINGTON HAS MADE SOME PLAIN DEMANDS ON CHINA.

When These Are Accepted and Fulfilled It Will Be Time to Talk About Terms of Peace.

MINISTER WU MUCH PLEASSED

HE THINKS SELECTION OF EARL LI IS A GOOD ONE.

The Selection of Count Von Waldersee as Commander—Belated Message from Conger—Troops Moving.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12.—Indications of the desire of China for a peaceful settlement of her present difficulties have been multiplying for several days. Official evidence of that desire was presented to the Department of State to-day. It was in the form of an edict promulgated by the Emperor, Kwang Hsu, appointing Earl Li Hung Chang as envoy plenipotentiary to negotiate with the powers for an "immediate cessation of hostilities" pending a solution of the problems which have grown out of the anti-foreign uprising in the empire. Earl Li is to act in concert with the request of settlement he may reach with the powers will be approved by the imperial government.

During the day only one dispatch, that was made public, reached any of the government departments from China.

A belated message from Minister Conger was transmitted to the War Department by General Chaffee. It expressed simply ability to "hold on" until General Chaffee should come to his relief. All the powers of this government will be exerted to get that relief, and the other imprisoned legations at the earliest possible moment.

Minister Wu was an early caller at the Department of State. Shortly after 1 o'clock he made an engagement with Acting Secretary of State Adee to meet him at the department at 10:30. Promptly at that hour the minister's automobile stopped at the west entrance to the department, and Mr. Wu alighted and hurried to Secretary Adee's office. He presented to Mr. Adee a copy of the imperial edict, which he had received last night. It had been transmitted to him in the Chinese Foreign Office cipher, and its translation and preparation for submission to the Department of State had occupied much of the night.

Minister Wu remained with Secretary Adee for three-quarters of an hour, discussing the terms of the edict and the probable response to it of this government. Shortly before Minister Wu left the department Secretary of War Root joined the two diplomats, but remained only long enough to obtain a copy of the edict and discuss it briefly with the Chinese minister.

WU IS OPTIMISTIC.

Minister Wu expressed the belief that the edict presented a means of peaceful adjustment of the present trouble and that the request of the Chinese government for a cessation of hostilities pending peace negotiations was entirely reasonable.

Immediately on the conclusion of the conference the text of the edict, together with the details of the call of Minister Wu, was communicated to President McKinley at Canton. The President's reply as yet has not been received. Later in the day acting Secretary Adee made public the text of the edict in the following statement:

"The Department of State makes public the following imperial edict appointing Viceroy Li Hung Chang as envoy plenipotentiary to propose a cessation of hostilities and negotiate with the powers, a copy of which was delivered by Mr. Wu to the acting secretary of state this (Sunday) morning at 10:30 o'clock."

"An imperial edict, forwarded by the Privy Council at Peking under date of the 14th day of the seventh month (Aug. 8), to Governor Yuan, at Tsi-Nan, Shan-Tung, who transmitted it on the 17th day of the same month (Aug. 11) to the Taotai at Shanghai, by whom it was retransmitted to Minister Wu, who received it on the night of the same day (Aug. 11). The imperial edict, as transmitted by the Privy Council, is as follows:

"In the present conflict between Chinese and foreigners there has been some misunderstanding on the part of the foreign nations and also a want of proper management on the part of some of the local authorities. A clash of arms is followed by calamitous results and has caused a rupture of friendly relations which will ultimately do us good to the world. We hereby appoint Li Hung Chang as our envoy plenipotentiary with instructions to propose at once by telegraph to the governments of the several powers concerned, for the immediate cessation of hostilities pending negotiations, which he is hereby authorized to conduct for our part, for the settlement of whatever questions may have to be dealt with. The questions are to be severally considered in an satisfactory manner and the result of our negotiations reported to us for our sanction. Respect this."

"The above is respectfully copied for transmission to your Excellency to be com-

(CONTINUED ON SECOND PAGE.)